

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of managing a logical partition on a logically-partitioned
2 computer, the method comprising:

3 (a) connecting a handheld computer to an adapter on the logically-
4 partitioned computer via a plug-in module coupled to the handheld computer
5 and connected to the adapter via a cable; and

6 (b) configuring the handheld computer to emulate a console for a
7 logical partition in the logically-partitioned computer using program code
8 resident in the plug-in module.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the logically-partitioned computer
2 comprises an AS/400-compatible midrange computer, and wherein the adapter
3 comprises a workstation adapter allocated to the at least one logical partition.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the handheld computer to
2 emulate the console includes downloading the program code from the plug-in module
3 to the handheld computer.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the program code is configured to control
2 the handheld computer to emulate a 5250-compatible console that communicates with
3 an AS/400-compatible midrange computer.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein connecting the handheld computer to the
2 adapter comprises attaching the cable to the adapter and to a network interface on the
3 plug-in module.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the network interface comprises a Twinax-
2 compatible interface suitable for communicating with an AS/400-compatible
3 midrange computer.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising authenticating with the logical
2 partition via the emulated console.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising performing a system
2 administration operation on the logical partition via the emulated console.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising performing a second system
2 administration operation on a second logical partition in the logically-partitioned
3 computer.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the first adapter is allocated to the first
2 logical partition, and wherein the logically-partitioned computer includes a second
3 adapter allocated to the second logical partition, the method further comprising, after
4 performing the first system administration operation, disconnecting the cable from the
5 first adapter and connecting the cable to the second adapter, wherein performing the
6 second system administration operation is performed via the handheld computer and
7 plug-in module interacting with the second logical partition through the second
8 adapter.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the first adapter is allocated to the first
2 logical partition, wherein the logically-partitioned computer includes a second adapter
3 allocated to the second logical partition, wherein the plug-in module includes first and
4 second network interfaces, wherein the first cable is coupled to the first network
5 interface, the method further comprising, prior to performing the second system
6 administration operation, connecting a second cable between the second adapter and
7 the second network interface, wherein performing the second system administration
8 operation is performed via the handheld computer and plug-in module interacting with
9 the second logical partition through the second adapter, and while the first cable is
10 coupled between the first adapter and first network interface.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the first adapter is allocated to the first
2 logical partition, wherein the logically-partitioned computer includes a second adapter
3 allocated to the second logical partition, the method further comprising:

4 (a) connecting a second handheld computer to the second adapter via a
5 second plug-in module coupled to the second handheld computer; and

6 (b) configuring the second handheld computer to emulate a second
7 console for the second logical partition in the logically-partitioned computer
8 using program code resident in the second plug-in module.

1 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising performing the first and second
2 system administration operations while a user is concurrently authenticated to the first
3 and second logical partitions.

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1 15. A plug-in module for a handheld computer, comprising:
2 (a) a network interface configured to receive a network connector;
3 (b) a memory; and
4 (c) program code resident in the memory and configured to control a
5 handheld computer to emulate a console that communicates with a multi-user
6 computer over the network interface.

1 16. The module of claim 15, wherein the network interface comprises a
2 twinaxial interface, and wherein the network connector comprises a twinaxial
3 connector.

1 17. The module of claim 16, wherein the network interface comprises a
2 Twinax-compatible interface suitable for communicating with an AS/400-compatible
3 midrange computer, and wherein the network connector comprises a Twinax-
4 compatible connector.

1 18. The module of claim 15, wherein the program code is configured to
2 control the handheld computer to emulate a 5250-compatible console that
3 communicates with an AS/400-compatible midrange computer.

1 19. The module of claim 15, further comprising a housing and a module
2 interface, wherein the housing has a form factor, and the module interface is
3 configured, to couple to a Springboard-compatible port on a Visor-compatible
4 handheld computer.

1 20. The module of claim 15, wherein the program code is configured to
2 control the handheld computer to emulate a console that communicates with a logical
3 partition in a logically-partitioned multi-user computer.

1 21. The module of claim 15, further comprising a second network interface
2 configured to receive a second network connector.

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